God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Annual Report of the United Church of Christ

The Officers of the United Church of Christ have developed a strategic vision plan with four specific bold, inspirational goals to guide the steps of the National Settings of the church in the years ahead – goals that may take 10 years to achieve. The four bold, inspiration goals of the National Settings, include:

1 BOLD, PUBLIC VOICE

The United Church of Christ is a bold, widely-known and respected public voice of Christianity in service of God's ever-unfolding mission.

2 WELCOMING, REACHABLE CONGREGATIONS

There is a welcoming United Church of Christ community of faith that is accessible to all – no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.

3 ENGAGED DISCIPLESHIP

Every United Church of Christ person is well-equipped to be growing in faith, biblically-literate, theologically conversant, and active in the national and global mission of the church.

4 EXCELLENT, DIVERSE LEADERS

The United Church of Christ has a wealth of prepared, excellent leaders that reflect the diversity of God's beloved community.

In 2013, the United Church of Christ worked toward advancing all of these bold, inspirational goals. For example, the Church's bold, public voice took center stage in the summer as the Supreme Court of the United States ruled against Proposition 8 and struck down the Defense of Marriage Act. Soon, voices of the UCC could be heard on the national news, from CNN to Fox News to Telemundo — and seen in The New York Times, USA Today, and The Washington Post.

The United Church of Christ also brought attention to environmental justice issues through General Synod resolutions, local church programs and projects, and through the support of **Mission 4/1 Earth**, an all-church initiative. In April and May, the people of the UCC rolled up their sleeves and put a lot of imagination and effort into earth care during the **Mission 4/1 Earth** 50-day environmental initiative. With more than 2,100 UCC churches, seminaries, outdoor ministries and health and human services participating, the United Church of Christ counted more than 600,000 earth-care hours, planted 130,000 trees and sent 50,000 plus advocacy letters to government leaders during the 50 days of Mission 4/1 Earth.

Since General Synod 28 in 2011, more than 47 faith communities have joined the UCC, opening doors to even more welcoming and accessible congregations throughout the U.S. In order to further support more new (and renewing) congregations, the UCC launched **"Testimony!,"** a $1 million fundraising initiative that raised more than one-third of this goal throughout the year. Also introduced was

▲ The UCC's Collegium of Officers: The Rev. J. Bennett Guess, Local Church Ministries; the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo, Justice and Witness Ministries; the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President; the Rev. James Moos, Wider Church Ministries.

Extravagance UCC, a non-geographic community of faith, held together by the Spirit, the internet, and the intention of those seeking to be part of the United Church of Christ.

To achieve engaged discipleship, United Church of Christ continues to find innovative ways to help UCC persons be more theologically conversant and biblically literate. The church continues to strengthen its relationships with **UCC seminaries** to extend theological education through online courses, develops a range of faith formation tools and resources, identifies local churches who can serve as inspiring models of ministry on a range of subjects, and supports ways in which local church members can be involved in the wider church — both nationally and globally.

In addition, the ongoing **Justice Leaders Engaging & Developing** (LED) initiative develops justice leaders for the church and local communities. The initiative includes a flexible, biblically grounded, non-issue based justice curriculum and training program. Through Justice LED, leaders are able to return to their home communities prepared to be active, justice and compassion oriented disciples of the Stillspeaking God.

The United Church of Christ also continued it work to identify and support excellent leaders who support the full diversity of the church, connecting members of the UCC with the skills and experience needed for effective leadership with men and women who can benefit from such mentoring relationships.

The governing leadership of the United Church of Christ moved forward in the year as the long-awaited transition into one board (through unified governance). The new 52-member United Church of Christ Board is responsible for governing each of the UCC's covenanted ministries, which previously had their own individual boards. The new board also selected the Rev. Bernard Wilson as its first chairperson and Ms. Dale Bonds as vice chair.

One of the first difficult challenges the Board faced in 2013 was the address of a 2014 annual budget shortfall within the National Setting. For 2014, the Board approved an annual budget of $25.3 million for the 2014 calendar year. The $25.3 million in expenses — a reduction of $2.2 million from 2013 levels — still leaves about a $2.3 million deficit.

United Church of Christ

Special Mission Offerings

Strengthen the Church – $576,436

Strengthen the Church is an offering to reimagine and build the future of the United Church of Christ. Shared 50-50 between conference and national settings, Strengthen the Church largely supports youth ministries, developing their spiritual gifts and leadership skills for the church of the future. Funds also support full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard, along with grants to help churches communicate the "God is still speaking," message. Most congregations receive the Strengthen the Church offering on Pentecost Sunday, and **the offering raised $576,000 in 2013, with $288,000 to the National Settings.**

Neighbors in Need – $1,252,490

The Neighbors in Need (NIN) special offering supports the ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), and two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Most congregations receive the Neighbors in Need offering on World Communion Sunday in October of each year, and **the offering raised more than $1.25 million in 2013.**

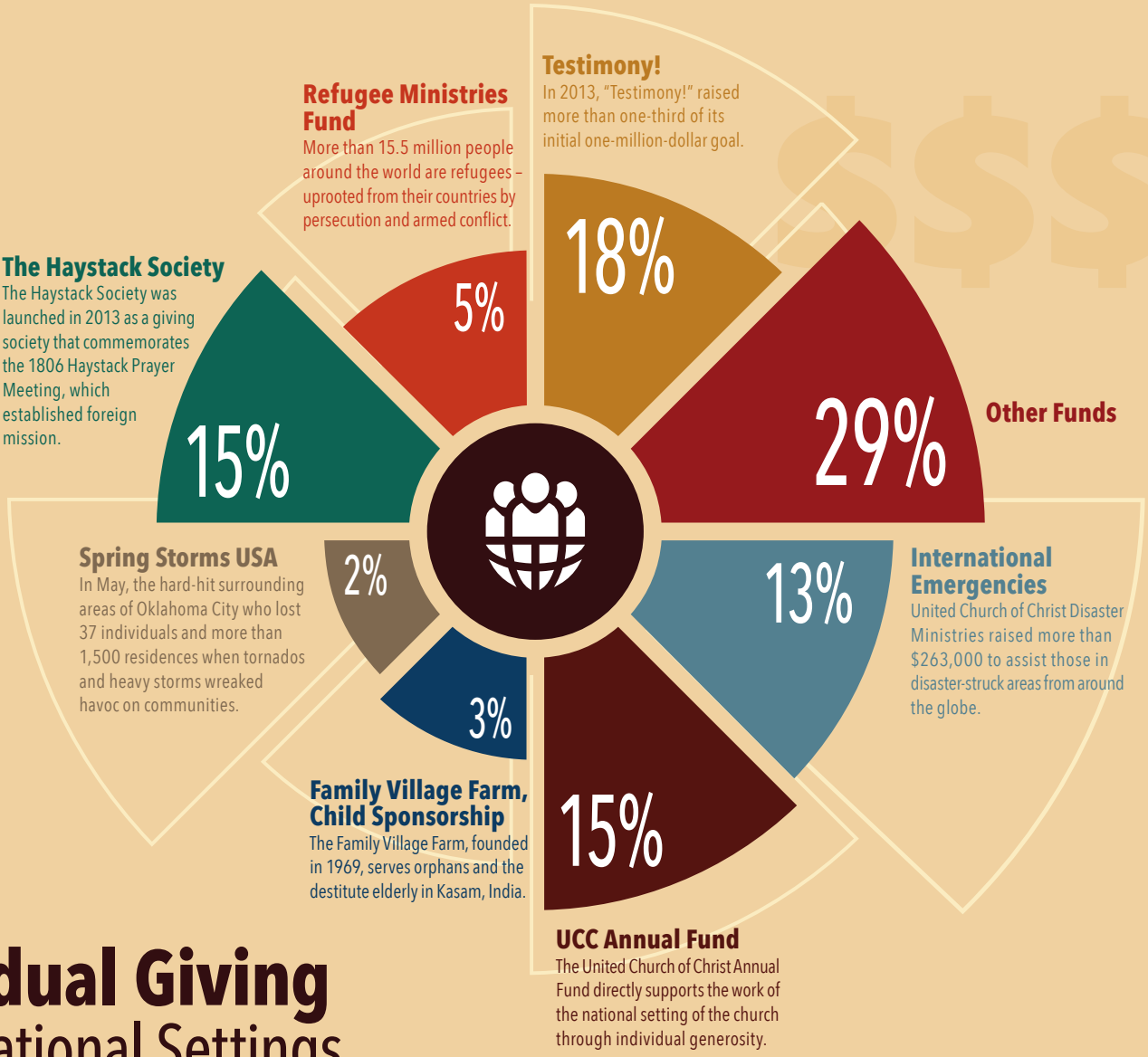
The Christmas Fund – $1,545,076

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund provides direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay employees – those who have served or currently do serve our beloved Church. Each year, the Christmas Fund provides ministerial assistance to more than 1,600 persons, including Christmas gift check, monthly pension supplementation, quarterly health premium supplementation and emergency grants. Many congregations receive The Christmas Fund offering during Advent, and **the offering raised more than $1.54 million in 2013.**

One Great Hour of Sharing – $2,325,421

One Great Hour of Sharing – the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ – transforms lives through health, education, agricultural, refugee, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries, working alongside our international partners. Most congregations receive One Great Hour of Sharing on the fourth Sunday of Lent, and **the offering raised more than $2.32 million in 2013.**

TOTAL – $5,699,423



Individual Giving
to the National Settings

Testimony! – $360,792
Since 2006, more than 250 new United Church of Christ congregations have opened their doors, establishing progressive, justice-minded faith communities across the United States. That equals more new congregations than at any other time since the 1960s. The "Testimony!" initiative is working to support even more new UCC congregations that are demonstrating great promise for growth and vitality.

The Haystack Society – $306,285
Haystack Society members directly support the current work and future needs of the United Church of Christ's Wider Church Ministries who are pioneering new understandings and mission practices in global and local settings. In its first year, the Haystack Society raised more than $306,000.

UCC Annual Fund – $294,197
Each year, hundreds of UCC members and friends contribute to The Annual Fund in order to directly support the enriching work of the national setting, including its justice and witness ministries, local church ministries, and its 'God is still speaking' ministry.

International Emergencies – $263,090
In late 2013, Typhoon Haiyan became one of the strongest storms to ever make landfall, tearing through the central Philippines and killing nearly 6,000 people and displacing more than 3.6 million. United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries raised more than $263,000 to assist those in disaster-struck areas from around the globe.

Refugee Ministries Fund – $104,561
Global Ministries missionaries, global mission interns, and partner service volunteers build the capacity of organizations within both the United States and with global partner churches and organizations to engage in refugee and immigration ministry. In 2013, nearly $105,000 was raised to directly benefit refugee ministries throughout the world.

Family Village Farm, Child Sponsorship – $51,808
Global Ministries, a shared witness of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), supports approximately 100 children living at the Family Village Farm through its Child Sponsorship Program, which provides food, clothing, education, and training for each sponsored child. Donations directly support the children and family groups at the Farm, as well as the Farm's infrastructure.

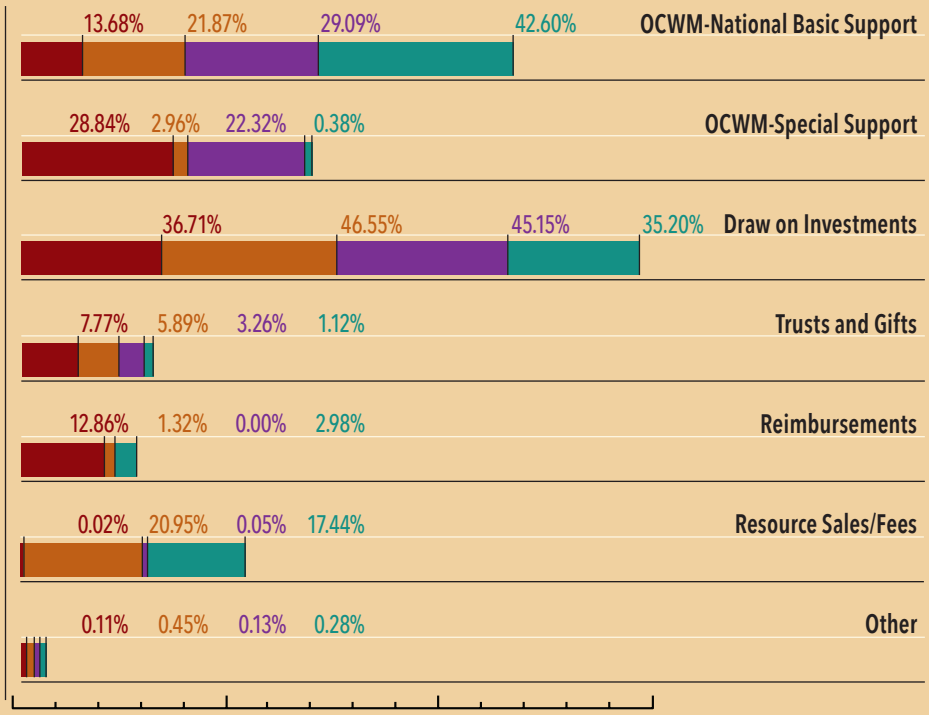
Spring Storms USA – $33,785
In the spring of 2013, United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries, in cooperation with and through the 38 conferences of the UCC, responded to communities devastated by storms. Many states also experienced heavy flooding and damage, from Iowa to Pennsylvania. Donations directly support volunteer efforts in these areas and assist affected families.

Other Funds – $579,034

2013 Sources and Uses of Funds

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013

Sources



Wider Church Ministries (WCM)

Supports congregations and the other settings of the church in developing relationships with a wider church that is global, multiracial and multicultural, open and affirming, and accessible to all. WCM is in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Common Global Ministries – the worldwide mission program of both denominations.

Local Church Ministries (LCM)

Supports local congregations in their concerns about growth, finances, liturgy, and education; supports ordained and lay ministers in their vocations; and manages the UCC's publishing houses (The Pilgrim Press, United Church Press) and distribution services (UCC Resources).

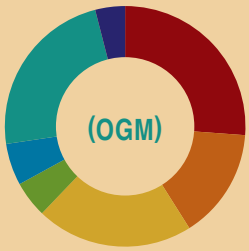
Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM)

Helps local congregations and all settings of the church respond to God's commandments to do justice, seek peace, and effect change for a better world. The work of JWM is guided by the pronouncements and resolutions approved by the UCC at General Synod.

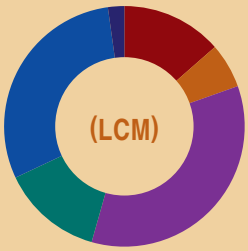
Office of General Ministries/ Executive Council (OGM)

Provides common services for the national setting of the church; cares for relations with Conferences, other faith traditions and racial/ethnic constituencies in the church; provides platforms for communication and oversees the Stillspeaking Ministry; and assists the national setting in financial development. EC supports General Synod and the UCC's ecumenical work.

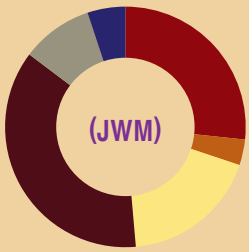
Uses



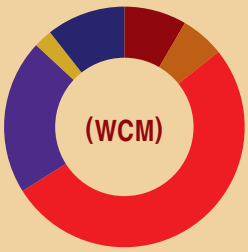
Administration	26.17%
Philanthropy and Stewardship	14.87%
Publishing, Identity, and Communication	21.11%
Center for Analytics, Research and Data	4.88%
Conference and Ecumenical Relations	5.63%
General Synod	23.33%
Grants and Other Program Initiatives	4.01%



Administration	13.55%
Philanthropy and Stewardship	6.03%
Congregational Assessment, Support and Advancement	34.82%
Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization	13.60%
Pilgrim Press & United Church Press	29.81%
Grants and Other Program Initiatives	2.20%



Administration	26.68%
Public Life and Social Policy	3.46%
Public Life and Social Policy	18.48%
Human Rights, Racial, Social and Economic Justice	36.67%
Centers for Education and Social Transformation	9.62%
Grants and Other Program Initiatives	5.10%



Administration	8.40%
Philanthropy and Stewardship	5.88%
Overseas Programs	51.78%
Global Sharing of Resources	20.84%
Local Church Relations	2.50%
Grants and Other Program Initiatives	10.60%

The new governance structure – the United Church of Christ Board – came into effect following the close of General Synod 29 on July 2, 2013, resulting in the creation of a new administrative team in the national setting, the Office of the General Minister and President (OGMP). OGMP includes the revenues and expenses from the former Executive Council and the Office of General Ministries. For reporting purposes, listed sources and uses of funds are those of the four Covenanted Ministries prior to unified governance.